

Application Serial No. 09/877,164
Amendment dated February 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraph on page 6 after line 5:

--As best shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, side walls 12 have a height that is at least several times the depth of the recesses 20. The depth of the recesses 20 may be measured from the top edge 26 to the bottom 22. As a result, the interior of reservoir 10 has a volume that is substantially greater than the collective volume of the recesses 20 such that the liquid reagent can fill the reservoir to a level above the top edges 26 of the recesses 20.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In use, the reagent reservoir 10 is filled with a desired volume of liquid reagent. Advantageously, reservoir 10 is filled to a level substantially above the top edges 26 of the recesses 20, and more advantageously, to a volume that is at least several times greater than the combined volume of the recesses 20. Multiple head pipettor 32 is positioned, for example as shown in FIG. 2, with each pipettor head 30 aligned over a respective recess bottom 22. The liquid reagent is then extracted. The extraction may continue until all or substantially all of the liquid reagent is removed from the interior of the reagent reservoir 10. By virtue of the angled pattern of the bottom wall 14, the liquid reagent is caused to flow toward the recess bottoms 22 thereby enabling the complete or nearly complete extraction.--